

LSS-238
19 May 1947

SECRET

TO: Washington (FBL)

FROM: []

SUBJECT: Johannes MIKKELSON

SOURCE: CRAKE

REFERENCES: TX-865 dated 13 June 1946.
TX-990 dated 17 September 1946.
T-2917
Wash cable BY2.
LSS-229 dated 14 May 1947.

In order that a more accurate appraisal of the character of the Subject may be made we are forwarding the following biographical data as provided by the above mentioned Source.

The above Subject was born on 29 January 1907, in Tallinn, Estonia. He has been the editor of the Estonian Socialist paper "Rahva Sõna", and has taken part in several international courses for trade unionists in Switzerland and Sweden. Subject has been generally known as a leftist. During the 1st Russian occupation Subject was appointed as secretary in the People's Commissariat of Light Industry. During the latter part of this regime, after the outbreak of the German-Russian warfare, he joined a workers' battalion thus placing himself in the services of the Russians. This was, however, a commonly used method in order to avoid Russian mobilization. After the arrival of the Germans, Subject was arrested and spent many months in prison, escaping to Sweden in the fall of 1944, during the period of wholesale evacuation from Estonia.

Upon arrival in Sweden, Subject managed, thru his contacts with the Swedish Socialists, to get an appointment with the "Arbetsmarknads kommission". He is continuing to serve at this post as an expert on questions concerning the Estonian refugees. His relations with the Swedish Socialist Party are excellent, and he is known to be in contact with several of the Swedish Cabinet Members, and closely associated with a number of the Swedish Cabinet Under-secretaries.

At the end of 1945, in cooperation with other Estonian Socialists he took the initiative in organizing the Estonian Socialist Society and has been very active in entering into connection with Socialist parties and organizations in other countries. When the representative of the American Federation of Labor, A. Brown, visited in Sweden in 1946 he was contacted by Subject and supplied with memoranda on the Estonian question. Subject is also in touch with the British Labor Party, spending 4 weeks in England during April, 1947. In England he was reported to have met many well known labor leaders and have had a number of conferences with the Foreign Secretary of the

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Labor Party.

Many Estonians, especially those who have served, during the German occupation, in the Security Police, are suspicious of the Subject and suspect him of being a Communist agent. (This is, however, a well-known argument often used by Estonian quislings in order to discredit any of their more democratic apponents.)

The following extract has been obtained from an accusation which was sent to the Swedish Police. This statement was prepared by Evald TREUDE, Senior assistant of the German Security Police in Tallinn. (TREUDE has left Sweden and is now living in Spain.)

"Subject belonged to the group of Neeme RUUS, Nigol ANDREESSEN, JÜEÄÄR, and Maksim UNT. (RUUS was a young leftist Member of Parliament, joined the Communist Party before 1940, during the Russian occupation was appointed Propaganda Secretary of the CP. ANDREESSEN is presently Vice-Chairman of the Estonian High-Soviet; JÜEÄÄR is at present Minister of Justice; UNT was the Peoples' Commissar of the Interior in 1940, was arrested by the German Security Police and probably shot.) During the Parliamentary elections Subject was a candidate of the Marxist Block. On behalf of the Trade Unions he visited Sweden several times. During the cross-examination of Karl SÄRE in 1941, it became evident that Subject had met SÄRE in Sweden. (SÄRE had been a communist agent in China, and was later sent to Estonia in order to prepare & organize Estonian Communists prior to 1941. During the Russian occupation he was 1st Secretary of the Estonian CP and one of the most powerful leaders in Estonia. SÄRE was captured by the Security Police in 1941). Subject had taken part in Esperanto courses in Sweden. These courses were actually centers for communist agitation and intelligence. Subject returned to Estonia with special assignments. In 1936, Subject was examined by the Estonian political police and accused of having recruited Communists for the Spanish civil war. (partially admitted by Subject while under interrogation).

When many Estonian communists were released during the amnesty in 1938, Subject contacted them. He became closely associated with A. VEIMER (sentenced to lifetime penal servitude), presently Soviet-Estonian Prime Minister. After release many of these communists concentrated at the HQs of the Workmen's Sick Fund in Tallinn, where Subject was the editor of the Workers paper "Rahva Sõna". These communists organized illegal groups of which Subject was a member.

After the Estonian-Russian pact in 1939, which granted bases for Russian troops, Subject became very active. He became one of the lecturers for "Idees", the society for Marxist workers. After the Russian occupation of Estonia Subject was appointed by A. VEIMER as secretary of the Peoples Commissar of Light Industry.

In the beginning of July, 1941, a panic occurred among the Communists in Estonia after a German breakthrough near Tartu, and many Communists fled from Tallinn in the direction of Leningrad. The Russian authorities stopped them in Narva and the majority were sent back to Tallinn. Subject had also escaped to Narva with his belongings and was forced to return to Tallinn. Upon his return he was active in organizing "destruction battalions" and as a result was arrested by the Germans. Under interrogation Subject admitted having been a member of the underground Communist Party during the time of the Estonian republic. Subject admitted he had been sent back from the Russian border for the purpose of organizing destruction battalions. He was sentenced for a term of 9 months for this activity. After his release Subject received aid and shelter from various Estonian communists. At this time he openly expressed himself in favor of Communism and declared the communists would soon govern the whole world.

It is probable that Subject was sent to Sweden in order to observe the activities of the Estonian refugees. The Communists considered the Socialists among their first opponents and most of them were promptly deported and only those agreeing to work as agents were allowed to remain in Estonia. Thus arousing much suspicion when Subject was allowed to proceed to Sweden.

Subject has met the Deputy Peoples Commissary of Foreign Affairs of Soviet-Estonia, Aleksander ABEN, during his assignment in Sweden".

According to Source, all the visible activities of Subject are directed against Communism. He is actively working in the Estonian Democratic Club and in the Estonian Socialist Society, as well as writing anti-Communist propaganda. He has excellent contacts in Sweden and abroad and it would appear he is using these in a manner harmful to the Communist interest. He has reported to the above mentioned organizations his contact with ABEN during his work in Sweden. On the other hand, Source is well aware that should Subject be working for the Russians his position and associations would be of great importance and by far outweigh any harm he may do to the communists on the surface. Source considers him suspicious, and at the time of his request to enter the Estonian Club Source tried to prevent his acceptance, but was unsuccessful due to the lack of concrete evidence against him.

Source has been requested to more accurately check the contacts and activities of the Subject in order that we may have more specific information from which to work.

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